(c) The Department of Telecommunications has taken various steps to eradicate problems faced by the subscribers and to minimise the instances of inflated bills which are as under:—

(i) Efforts are being made through implemenation of the successive plans to upgrade the existing facilities by incorporating new technologies.

(ii) Replacement of life-expired underground cables by new cable.

(iii) Introduction of computerisation of services.

(iv) Rehabilitation and upgradation of the external plant.

(v) Provision of dynamic STD locking facility to customers of electronic exchanges.

(vi) Surprise checks by vigilance.

(vii) Locking of D.Ps, Cabinets, Pillars and other vulnerable points.

(viii) Strict disciplnary action against employees found involved; and

(ix) Computerisation of telephone billing.

(d) For(i) and (ii) of part (b), the Department of Telecommunications is inducting only latest state of art digital electronic exchange. For (iii) of part (b), mostly radio based latest systems are being planned.

Noticeable improvelent in service is expected when the telecom. network becomes fully electronic and the external plant is fully upgraded.

Awarding the contract for cellular phones

1240. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract for cellular phones has been granted to a firm, in violation of the norms and rules in this regard;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court had passed adverse remarks in this connections:

(d) if so, what are the circumstances under which the remarks of the High Court and the Supreme Court were ignored in awarding the contract: and

(e) what procedure was followed by Government in awarding the contract for cellular phones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No Sir, the criteria of evaluation laid down by the Department of Telecom has been examined in detail and uphold by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The orders given by the courts were duly impemented while awarding the contracts.

(e) The tenders were evaluated in two stages. In the first stage the bidders were shortlisted based on eligibility, commercial and technical conditions. In the second stage the financial bids of the shortlisted bidders were evaluated.

Transfer of licence for Cellular Mobile phone service in Delhi

1241. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cellular Mobile Services licence issued for Delhi to Sterling Computers is proposed to be transferred to ESSAR Group.

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of such transfer: and

(c) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Ministry that ESSAR